UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/470
25 September 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda items 70 and 71

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 20 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 16 September 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concerning the resumption of nuclear testing by France at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 70 and 71.

(Signed) Anatoli ZLENKO
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 16 September 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its profound concern at France's conduct of the first in a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific, on 5 September 1995. France's carrying out of its intention to resume nuclear testing can only give rise to Ukraine's concern, particularly in the light of the decisive steps taken by the Ukrainian Government in the field of nuclear disarmament. Having taken its principled decision to become a non-nuclear-weapon State, Ukraine had hoped that other countries would heed its example.

The cessation of the moratorium on and the resumption of nuclear testing is contrary to the agreement reached at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which urged the nuclear States to exercise "utmost restraint". Such actions will also not help strengthen the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Such actions can jeopardize the success of the negotiations being conducted on the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which in turn will delay the implementation of other measures in the field of nuclear disarmament. In particular, this will not be conducive to the accession of new States to the non-proliferation Treaty.

Ukraine once again calls upon France to review its decision on nuclear testing and, together with the other nuclear-weapon States, make systematic efforts with a view to the complete cessation of nuclear testing as soon as possible.